

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-7, 10, 11, 13, and 15-19 under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being anticipated, claims 8, 9, 12, 14, and 20 under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being obvious. Claims 1-20 remain under examination.

The rejection for anticipation was rejected primarily on Hashim. The independent claims have been amended to a form that includes substantial portions of dependent claims 8 and 20 that were rejected for being obvious. The independent claims have also been amended to require applying the corrosion inhibitor at the bottom of a via. The obviousness rejection was based on Hashim in combination with Avanzino. Avanzino teaches a class of wet corrosion inhibitors applied to surfaces that have been chemical-mechanical polished and are thus themselves wet. Such an approach would have difficulties for forming a consistent and adequate protective layer in vias, especially as vias become smaller and smaller. Applicants have found no suggestion in Avanzino that the wet inhibitors would be effective for vias. Further the kind of inhibitor used by Avanzino is for the situation where there is likely to be large and rapid corrosion. So it must be applied quickly and in a wet environment, which is required for the post chemical-mechanical polishing (CMP) case but is not optimum for corrosion that can result from humidity. Further there are dependent claims that require a monolayer, which applicants have not found suggested in either Avanzino or Hashim. Accordingly, applicants submit that the claims are patentably distinct from the cited art.

The Office Action contains numerous statements characterizing the claims, the Specification, and the prior art. Regardless of whether such statements are addressed by Applicant, Applicant refuses to subscribe to any of these statements, unless expressly indicated by Applicant.

No amendment made was related to the statutory requirements of patentability unless expressly stated herein. No amendment made was for the purpose of narrowing the scope of any claim, unless Applicant has argued herein that such amendment was made to distinguish over a particular reference or combination of references.

Applicants believe the application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully solicited. Please contact the below-signed if there are any issues regarding this communication or otherwise concerning the current application.

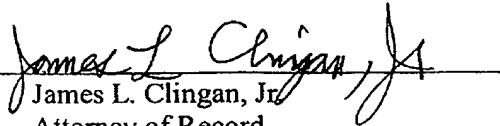
Respectfully submitted,

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